

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 11

The Righteous and the Wicked

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 11:4; I John 3:12; Jude 11

Objects to have:

A poster board divided into two equal parts, vertically

Pictures of two men

A picture of a wide gate

A picture of a narrow gate

Leading to each gate one of these two roads:

A picture of a road on which to fasten the following pictures: laughing mouth, liquor bottle, cigarettes, the word DOPE, immodestly-dressed man and woman, the words MY WAY—NOT GOD'S

A picture of another road on which to fasten the following pictures: a heart, a smiling mouth, modestly-dressed man and woman, the words GOD'S WAY

Scotch tape

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Put up the poster board. As you do so, print the word RIGHTEOUS at the top of the left-hand side of the board and the word WICKED on the right side of the board.) There are only two kinds of people in this whole world: righteous and wicked. (Point to those words.) We could call the righteous people good; we could call the wicked people bad. There is only one way that a person can become righteous—only by trusting Jesus. There is only one way that a person is wicked—by choosing not to trust Jesus.

In the Old Testament and in the New Testament, God tells us about two men—the one became righteous and the other remained wicked. Let's hear how that happened.

Telling the story:

Both men had the same mother and daddy, so that made those men brothers. When the first man was born, their mother and daddy named that tiny baby Cain. When the second man was born, their mother and daddy named that tiny baby Abel.

How happy their mother and daddy, Adam and Eve, were! They loved having those two boys in their house. God gave Adam and Eve a job. They were to teach their boys to love God and to behave right. Of course, Adam and Eve had more to do than that for their boys. They were to feed them; they were to clothe them; they were to teach them how to work, etc. Their big job was to teach them to love God and to live right.

There were happy times in their home. There were times when they all worked together and all played together and all laughed together and all talked together. There were times that were unhappy, also, just as there are in other homes. The boys sometimes would disobey, and they had to be punished. Then their mother and daddy, Adam and Eve, would teach them why they were punished and tell them how they could do better.

Cain and Abel grew and grew. They were no longer babies; they were no longer little boys; they were no longer big boys; they grew to be men. Cain and Abel both chose jobs for themselves. Cain chose to be a farmer—a farmer that would take care of fruit trees and fields of grain. Abel chose to be a shepherd—he had many animals for which to care. Among the animals were sheep.

Then came a very important time of the year. It was the time of the year when people would go to a place where God told them to go. At that place, they were to do what God told them to do. God had taught Adam and Eve, and Adam and Eve taught Cain and Abel. At this certain time, everybody was to stop and think how he had been behaving. Everybody was to think about the sins that he had committed. Everybody was to tell God about those sins and ask for forgiveness. Now, since this was before Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, the people had to give their own sacrifices. Jesus came and died for us as our sacrifice, so we are not supposed to sacrifice animals anymore for our sins. This is what they had to do. They had to choose a new little lamb. The lamb that they chose could not have any sores on him, could not have red eyes, could not have crippled feet, and could not be weak. The little baby sheep had to be perfect.

The people brought their lambs to a place that was called an altar. The lamb was tied up so that he could not get away, and he was laid on the altar. While he was lying there on the altar, the person who brought him would put his hands on the head of the lamb, and he would pray. The person would pray, tell God about his sins, and ask God to forgive him or her. Then the little lamb was killed. When God saw the blood run out of the little lamb, God could then forgive the sins of the person who brought the lamb. God had made a rule that blood had to flow out of a perfect sacrifice before He could forgive sins. Then the people could cook some of the meat and have a good meal!

Cain and Abel knew what they were supposed to do. Abel chose his little lamb, even though he felt sad about having to do that. He felt sad to think that he was a sinner and that something had to die in order that his sins might be forgiven. God saw Abel's sacrifice, and God forgave Abel's sins. God called Abel righteous. (Put the figure of one of the men under the word **RIGHTEOUS**.) We'll call this man Abel, and he is righteous in God's sight. That's because he trusted God's way.

Cain came to the altar, also, but he wasn't carrying a little lamb—he was carrying some fruits and some vegetables in a basket. If we were there, we would say, "Cain, didn't you hear God's rule? You were supposed to bring a lamb—a living sacrifice for your sins. Even though you might not have any lambs on your farm, you could go buy one." Cain did not want to pay attention to God's rule. Cain wanted his own way, so he brought his fruits and his vegetables to the altar.

God talked to Cain. God said, "Cain, your sacrifice is not acceptable." Cain got mad! When people get mad, their faces look terrible. Their mouths turn down, and there are frown marks between their eyes, and their eyes have a bad look in them. God said, "Cain, why are you angry? If you were to go to the door of your house, you would find that there is a sacrifice there for you, an acceptable sacrifice. Go get it." But Cain would not obey God. Cain would not trust God and do what was right. God, therefore, could not call Cain righteous—Cain was called wicked. (Put the figure of the second man under the word **WICKED** on the poster board.)

I'll show you the ways which these two men had chosen. (Put the narrow gate under the word **RIGHTEOUS**.) Jesus said that choosing the righteous way of life is like opening a gate and walking through that opening onto a road. That gate is a narrow gate, and the road is a narrow road. (Put the road on the board.) That road doesn't look like much fun sometimes. Oh, there is love there. While walking the narrow road, Abel knew all about God's love for him, and Abel loved God back. Abel also loved people; he wanted them to know God as he knew Him. (Put the heart on the board.) There is a quiet type of happiness on that narrow road. (Put the smiling mouth on the road.) There are also certain ways that righteous people must dress in order to please God. (Place the modestly-dressed man and woman on the board and talk about modest dress and the right hair styles for men.) The narrow road is God's way. (Put the words *God's Way* on the road.)

Now the wicked have chosen another way to go. Jesus said that their way was like opening a wide gate. (Put that on the road under the column for wicked.) Opening that wide gate and walking through the opening led to a wide road. Oh, sometimes that road looks very attractive. (Put the laughing mouth on the road.) Wicked people laugh loudly; they like to use bad language and laugh a lot about that; they like to watch bad TV programs and read bad magazines and books, and they laugh a lot about their sinful ways. (Put the liquor bottle, the cigarettes and the word **DOPE** on the wide road.) Wicked people—people who will not trust Jesus and who will not obey Him—

more often than not will drink liquor and smoke cigarettes and use dope. They are wanting so much to have things that will satisfy them, and they do not understand that by trusting Jesus they don't need these things. They also don't understand that these things are very bad and very harmful. (Place the pictures of the immodestly-dressed man and woman on the broad road.) Wicked people have some strange idea that their clothes should be immodest. (Discuss short skirts, tight clothing, pants on women, insufficiently-covered bodies.) Wicked people have chosen to do their way—not God's. (Put the words MY WAY—NOT GOD'S on the broad road.)

Now, a road always leads someplace. There is only one place where the wicked people who have not trusted Jesus will go: that is to Hell. There is only one place that righteous people who have trusted Jesus will go: that is Heaven. The day that the wicked person dies, he goes to Hell and suffers for his own sins. The day the righteous person dies, he goes to Heaven where there is no sin and where he will enjoy being with others who have trusted Jesus as their Saviour and, of course, being with Jesus.

Cain was not sorry that he had disobeyed God. He never did go get the right sacrifice and confess his sins and trust God's way. Cain went to talk to Abel in the field. While they talked, Cain got even more angry. See, wicked people don't especially like righteous people. Not all wicked people get this mad, but wicked Cain got so mad that he killed his brother Abel. Since they were in a field, Cain dug a big hole and put Abel's dead body in that hole and covered it up. The living part of Abel left his body and went to Heaven immediately. Cain couldn't see that happen—nobody can see that happen, but it does happen.

God knows everything! God saw Cain kill Abel. Wicked Cain went to Hell when he died—that bad place where fire burns forever and people suffer forever and ever from their sins. The end of Abel's road of life ended perfectly. He went to Heaven where everything is perfectly happy.

Don't choose the wicked way. Choose the righteous way. Trust Jesus, obey Him, and live for Him.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSES: Matthew 7:13, 14, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*"